

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1009

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528-0305

Dear Mr. Cuffari:

I write to express my grave concerns about the allegations of medical malpractice at the Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC) in Ocilla, Georgia, which were contained in a recent whistleblower complaint filed with your office.¹ This complaint, which includes serious allegations of medical mistreatment surrounding hysterectomies, is extremely disturbing and raises significant concerns about the health and safety of detainees in my state. Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has requested that your office review the allegations contained in the whistleblower complaint and has announced that he will be overseeing a separate, concurrent investigation into these allegations.²

I urge you to prioritize and expedite this investigation and to swiftly provide the public with a clear, vetted, and accurate picture of the situation at the ICDC. Additionally, I request that you provide my staff with a briefing on your findings upon conclusion of your investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David A. Perdue
United States Senator

¹ Project South, Whistleblower Complaint, September 14, 2020. <https://projectsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/OIG-ICDC-Complaint-1.pdf>.

² Alexandra Desantis, "Exclusive: DHS to Investigate Allegation of Mandatory Hysterectomies Performed on Detained Women," *National Review Online*, September 16, 2020. <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/exclusive-dhs-to-investigate-allegation-of-mandatory-hysterectomies-performed-on-detained-women/>.